



Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of **Communicate**. Please do use it to share news from [Wychavon Strategic Partnership](#), the three area-based [LSPs](#) and the [Worcestershire Partnership](#) with your colleagues and networks. Get in touch with Tracy with your comments or suggestions for the next issue.

[Audrey Steel](#) – Strategic Partnership Chair
[Tracy Perkins](#) – Wychavon Council
[Cherrie Mansfield](#) - Wychavon Council

Strategic Partnership

The Partnership last met on 19 January 2011. Click [here](#) to view the agenda and minutes. The meeting included an update on the [South Worcestershire Development Plan](#) and a talk on South Worcestershire College [Apprenticeships](#). We also considered the Wychavon Local Climate Impact Profile, which is a tool to help councils and their partners understand the impact of severe weather events and how to be better prepared for the future. The Partnership agreed the following priorities for the Wychavon section of the new single Worcestershire Community Strategy:

- Support and improve the local economy.
- Develop skills and lifelong learning.
- Deliver housing that meets local needs.
- Reducing health inequalities and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Supporting older people.
- Providing positive activities for young people.
- Supporting people to play an active role in their communities and to take more responsibility for improving their lives.

Consultation on these and the other Worcestershire priorities will commence soon.

[Opportunity Vale of Evesham](#)

In January we held a partners' event to share the results of the Opportunity Vale of Evesham survey. The results show that there are significant needs in the terms of health and heating homes. There is also scope for improving skills and employment prospects in the area.

The three delivery partnerships have already started planning and delivering projects in response to the survey results. These include: free loft and cavity wall insulation, free home energy visits and fire safety checks, business start up surgeries, free family swims and increased childcare provision within the rural areas to enable parents to access other services.

We are holding four drop-in events on 12 and 26 March in Harvington, Badsey, Norton and Broadway where residents can pop in to learn more about the project. The events will include opportunities to have energy bills explained, have a health MOT, find out about local Children's Centres and have electric blankets or smoke alarms checked.

Local Partnerships

[Droitwich Area Partnership](#) (DSAP)

Over 50 people attended the Partnership's recent action plan consultation event. Participants heard about three of the projects that DSAP has supported: affordable warmth initiatives, the Spa Youth Zone and a Grow Your Own at Home scheme. People had the opportunity to attend two of seven workshop sessions to start developing priorities for DSAP's action plan for the next three years.

The town centre is proving resilient despite the difficult trading conditions. The proportion of empty shops has fallen to just 6%, which compares very favourably to the national average of 13%. DSAP has been involved in initiatives to support the town

centre including free shopping bags, art displays in empty shops, notice boards, guided town walks and a dedicated [website](#). Projects currently in progress include new visitor signs, maps and a shop local portal on the website.

A tourism forum is planned for March to start the process of developing a tourism action plan and mechanisms for businesses, attractions and stakeholders to work together and build on these opportunities.

[Evesham Market Town Partnership](#) (EMTP) NHS Worcestershire recently announced that due to the success of Evesham's community cardiac rehabilitation facility, it is moving the Worcester hospital based facility into the community.

EMTP's Appraisal Panel has been renamed the 'Scrutiny Panel' and the membership has been expanded to include business representation as well as from the public and voluntary sectors. The Scrutiny Panel will review the current project appraisal process with the aim of focusing and optimising the benefit of EMTP funding contributions.

Transition Groups in Evesham and Pershore have been encouraged to develop joint projects including a potential new food festival promoting locally grown salads.

[Persore Market Town Partnership](#) (PMTP) In 2010 the Partnership supported events which brought in excess of 20,000 visitors to the town. During the year, PMTP also supported new businesses, the construction and installation of a band stand for Abbey Park, a speed reduction unit for Flyford Flavell and Upton Snodsbury and the temporary use of an empty shop for community art exhibitions.

The Theme Groups are finalising their list of projects to put forward for funding in the coming year. The main focus is expected to be on economic support and regeneration and there will be an increased effort to take advantage of distinctive local assets such as the riverside and locally grown produce. In February the Partnership is hosting a Big Society event for Pershore. This will be

chaired by local MP, Harriet Baldwin. The aim is to get a better understanding of the Government's Big Society strategy and to identify opportunities that will enable Pershore and its local communities to move forward as a sustainable and vibrant market town for the future.

[Worcestershire Partnership](#)

The Worcestershire Partnership Board last met on 3 December 2010. Click [here](#) to view the agenda and minutes. Items on the agenda included Partnership restructure issues, Sustainable Community Strategy and the Big Society. In December the revised submission for a [Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership](#) was approved.

Other news

VCS grant results

The results of the latest round of Worcestershire County Council's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grants have been announced and can be seen on the [VCS Grants Announcements page](#).

Out now

[Worcestershire Economic Assessment 2010/11](#)

[The Voice](#) - the latest edition of the quarterly magazine for the VCS.

[Healthy lives, healthy people White Paper](#)

The NHS White Paper sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of public health in England.

Diary dates

Worcestershire Partnership Board:

14 March 2011

Wychavon Strategic Partnership:

23 March 2011

Droitwich Area Partnership:

6 April 2011

Pershore Market Town Partnership:

13 April 2011

Evesham Market Town Partnership:

14 April 2011

Communicate is produced by Tracy Perkins at Wychavon District Council. Contact Tracy with feedback, suggestions and contributions on 01386 565517 or e-mail tracy.perkins@wychavon.gov.uk